

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01584 041903Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-05
/038 W

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P R 041440Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5038

S E C R E T SOFIA 1584

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, IZ, BU
SUBJECT: TWO IRAQI KURDS MAY APPROACH EMBASSY ANKARA

1. EMBASSY OFFICER WAS APPROACHED AUGUST 3, IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF PRIVATE AUTOMOBILE, BY TWO IRAQI KURDS, SABIR 'A. FATAH ABDULLAH, IRAQI PASSPORT F 151628/198, DOMICILE BAGHDAD, AND MUHAMMAD RASHAD YAHYA, FROM ERBIL, IRAQ.

2. ABDULLAH, IN HIS MID-30'S, CLAIMED TO BE STUDYING HYDROLOGICAL ENGINEERING AT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING INSTITUTE IN SOFIA. YAHYA, EARLY TO MID-40'S SAID HE WAS LIVING IN GENEVA. CONVERSATION WAS PREDOMINANTLY IN FARSI, WITH ABDULLAH ALSO SPEAKING BULGARIAN.

3. BOTH MEN STATED THEY WANTED TO CONTACT USG TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATED TO THE KURDS. YAHYA CLAIMED TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH KURDISH EXILE GROUPS IN EUROPE. ABDULLAH SAID HE HAD GOOD INFORMATION ON ARAB COMMUNIST STUDENTS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIA. BOTH MEN SAID THEY WERE GOING TO ANKARA THIS WEEKEND AND SAID THEY WOULD CONTACT THE US EMBASSY THERE. THEY WISH TO MEET WITH ARABIC-SPEAKING USG REPRESENTATIVE.

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4. BOTH ABDULLAH AND YAHYA WERE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING THEIR BUSINESS. LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES HERE PREVENTED OUR QUESTIONING EITHER OF THE TWO MORE CLOSELY TO ASCERTAIN THEIR BONA FIDES. NEITHER CLAIMED TO BE POLITICAL REFUGEE, NOR DID THEY SEEK ANY VISA ASSISTANCE.

5. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF ANY APPROACHES TO EMBASSY ANKARA. (ABDULLAH MAY HAVE INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO US HERE. HE SAID HE PLANS TO RETURN TO SOFIA BETWEEN AUGUST 18 AND 23, AND WOULD CONTACT EMBOFF FOR PURCHASE OF THE VEHICLE.)
GARTHOFF

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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